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X - Vers. 2 J. E. Hoover
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The Witness Smear

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The Supreme Court will decide whether the Security Control Act is constitutional. It can make no decision on whether or not the Communist Party is a tool of Moscow. The actions of members of the party have already decided that question. Unfortunately, there are some who for unexplained reasons seek to maintain the fiction that the Communist Party is merely another political party and that those who expose its true nature are committing perjury for pay. J. Edgar Hoover put a little light on this subject at a meeting of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The FBI chief was harsh in his denunciation of those who attempt to smear government witnesses and confidential informants. He pointed out that the use of the confidential informant has been time tested in good police work. Now there is a determined campaign being conducted to deprive the government of this valued assistance. The campaign was started by Communist lawyers who devised a technique of smear and who were skilled in hiding foul and despicable acts behind the Fifth Amendment. These lawyers employed tactics which the most unscrupulous underworld "mouthpiece" would frown upon as improper.

But the most damage, according to Mr. Hoover, is done by "fictitious liberals" who through insidiously slanted and sly propagandistic writings conduct a campaign to break security measures and to discredit government witnesses. Why, Mr. Hoover asks, do these people pose as liberal when it is known that Communism is the very antithesis of liberalism? Yet these pseudo liberals have attacked everyone and everything related to the exposure of the Communist conspiracy.

There are those who justify their attacks by saying that Hiss and Harry Dexter White are of the past and that Burgess and MacLean, who cost none knows how many American lives because of Britain's sloppy security, are none of our affair. The Communist menace, these fogbound persons say, is a figment of the imagination. Claims that it is subversive are made by "kept witnesses," "informers," and "stool pigeons."

Allen Dulles, director of the CIA, who cannot be accused of playing near the right foul line, gives a few figures. The gang in the Kremlin is spending 10 percent of its war fund on the training, support and operation of its overall subversive mechanism.

Those false liberals who smear government witnesses who testify against the Communists are most certainly endangering their own freedom.

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